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November 23, 2005

Ann H. Williams
Senior Assistance Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region I
One Congress St., Suite 110 (RAA)
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Water Quality Legislation and Rulemaking

Dear Ann:

I have been asked by the MEDEP to review several amendments to Maine statutes and rules in order to certify changes to Maine's water quality standards. As required by 40 CFR § 131.6(e), I certify that the following statutory amendments and rules were duly adopted pursuant to State law.

2005 Legislative Session

PL 2005, c. 159 (LD 1497), "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Water Quality Standards for Ragged and Seboomook Lakes." This law became effective September 17, 2005.

PL 2005, c. 182 (LD 1304), "An Act Concerning Invasive Species and Water Quality Standards." This law became effective September 17, 2005.

PL 2005, c. 330 (LD 1588), Sections 7, 8, 11 and 12 only, "An Act to Amend Certain Laws Administered by the Department of Environmental Protection." This law became effective September 17, 2005.

PL 2005, c. 409 (LD 1450), "An Act to Amend Water Quality Standards." This law became effective June 20, 2005.

2004-2005 Rulemakings

06-096 CMR 530, "Surface Water Toxics Control Program," and 06-096 CMR 584, "Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants," became effective October 9, 2005. On the same date, 06-096 CMR 530.5, "Environmental Evaluation: Surface Water Toxics Control Program," was repealed.

06-096 CMR 532, "Large Commercial Passenger Vessels," became effective May 25, 2005. While it isn't clear that this rule constitutes a change in water quality standards requiring EPA approval, it is listed here in the interest of erring on the side of over-inclusiveness.

2004 Legislative Session

While the following amendments are clarifications, corrections, and updates appear to have little substantive effect, it appears that they have not been previously certified and should be included in order to arrive at a complete text of current water quality standards.

PL 2003, c. 689 (LD 1913), "An Act to Establish the Department of Health and Human Services." This law became effective July 1, 2004. Only Sections B-6 and B-7 relate to DEP water quality standards.

PL 2003, c. 614 (LD 1743), "An Act to Make Technical Corrections to Maine's Fish & Wildlife Laws." This law became effective April 12, 2004. Only Section 9 relates to DEP water quality standards.

PL 2003, c. 688 (LD 1916), "An Act to Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Laws of Maine." This law became effective July 1, 2004. Only Sections B-14 and B-15 relate to DEP water quality standards.

PL 20034, c. 534 (LD 1653), "An Act to Authorize the Town of Verona to Change its Name." This law became effective upon approval at Town referendum. Only Sections 3 and 5 relate to DEP water quality standards.

As you know, it is the State's position that, except as explicitly otherwise provided, DEP water quality standards apply statewide. Pursuant to 40 CFR 131.21, we look forward to EPA's review and action. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jeff Pidot
Chief, Natural Resources Division